

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00953 111634Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06
CCO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /121 W
-----111638Z 025302 /44

O R 111613Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5383
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0953

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ZA CG AO MO
SUBJ: ZAIRE BOMBING OF ZAMBIAN VILLAGES

1. MARK CHONA, SPECIAL ASST TO THE PRESIDENT, CALLED ME LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON TO REPORT THE FOLLOWING: ZAIRIAN PLANES BOMBED TWO ZAMBIAN VILLAGES ON SATURDAY IN THE NORTHWESTERN TIP OF ZAMBIA. THE VILLAGES WERE SHINGA MFUNJI AND MANGANGO. TODAY ZAIRIAN PLANES BOMBED A MISSION SCHOOL AT KALENE HILL, KILLING THE SISTER IN CHARGE, PRESUMABLY BUT NOT NECESSARILY EUROPEAN, AND ONE CHILD. TWO HOUSES AND THE WATER TOWER WERE ALSO DESTROYED.

2. CHONA MADE CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ZAMBIA TO CONTINUE ITS COOPERATION IN SUPPLYING FUEL AND SUPPLIES TO ZAIRE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THESE AND HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING WE COULD DO.

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3. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT MISSION PERSONNEL AT KALENE HILL ARE LARGELY BRITISH. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, ABOUT 32 AMERICANS AT A SCHOOL VERY NEARBY.

4. COMMENT: THE ZAMBIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE SHABA INVASION CONTINUES TO BE AMBIGUOUS. THEY ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE WAR AND

WILL PROBABLY BE VERY WORRIED THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF
MOROCCAN TROOPS WILL BRING FURTHER ESCALATION. WE
HAVE NO WAY OF CONFIRMING THE ABOVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
BOMBINGS. IF IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, THE DAMAGE IT CAN DO TO A
FRIENDLY ATTITUDE BY ZAMBIA TOWARDS THE MOBUTO GOVT. IS
OBVIOUS. WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND A MESSAGE OF APOLOGY AND
SYMPATHY FROM MOBUTU TO KAUNDA SHOULD THE EVENTS PROVE CORRECT.
THE SOONER THE BETTER. FOR THE TIME BEING WE THINK THE ZAMBIANS
MAY KEEP THE MATTER FROM BECOMING PUBLIC BUT PARTICULARLY
IF EUROPEANS ARE INVOLVED, IT CAN'T REMAIN THAT WAY VERY
LONG.
LOW

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